

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for internet based network topology discovery.

Extensible Markup Language (XML) based data is used to share the discovery information of devices on a network over Internet transport. XML based search engines
5 are used to search for the discovery information. Discovery information, such as identification, location, or capability data, for example, is stored on the devices of a network in the form of XML documents. Network topology maps may be created based on the information discovered.